

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 221438Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5109

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, IR, XA

SUBJ: PROPOSED IRANIAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

1. THE NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, SHAHROKH FIROUZ, IS RETURNING TO TEHRAN JULY 22 PRIMARILY, HE HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY, TO PRESENT TO HIM AN IRANIAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFRICA. THE PROPOSAL, IN BRIEF, IS THAT IRAN WILL ESTABLISH A FUND OF APPROXIMATELY \$250 MILLION FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF DAHOMEY, TOGO, NIGER, CHAD AND CAMEROON. THE FUND WOULD BE USED FOR JOINT INVESTMENT WITH THESE GOVERNMENTS IN CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND FOR LONG-TERM SOFT LOANS FOR WHATEVER PURPOSES THE GOVERNMENTS DESIRE, NO STRINGS BEING ATTACHED. THE FUND WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY AMBASSADOR FIRUOZ FROM HIS EMBASSY IN LAGOS. HE ENVISAGES THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES THEMSELVES AND TO SUBMIT THESE TO THE WORLD BANK FOR VERIFICATION. HIS OWN ROLE WOULD BE SIMPLY TO FORWARD THESE VERIFIED STUDIES TO TEHRAN FOR APPROVAL AND ISSUANCE OF FUNDS.

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2. OSTENSIBLY HIS REASON FOR DISCUSSING PROJECT WITH US IS TO

MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH USG POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES AND TO ELICIT USG "BLESSINGS." EMBASSY'S RESPONSE WAS IN GENERAL TERMS: "INTERESTING," "WORTH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS," AND THE HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO TEHRAN.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE SCHEME LACKS REFLECTION AND PLANNING IF FIROUZ DIVULGED HIS COMPLETE THINKING. HE WILL SEEK DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY TEHRAN, FROM WHOM WE SOLICIT REACTION AND ASSESSMENT.

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